What is claimed is:

1. A system development method for developing a system
using a development-support system made up of a server used to
provide information about functional units each implementing a
different function and files describing said different functions,
at least one developer client to develop said functional units
and at least one user client to develop said system configured
to perform desired operations by combining said functional units,
wherein all of said server, developer client, and user client are
connected through an internet, comprising:

a first step, to be taken by said user client, of registering
an operator of said user client as a user of said
development-support system ;

a second step, to be taken by said user client, of obtaining,
by referring to information about said functional units, files
describing a plurality of said functional units which are needed
for development of said system;

a third step, to be taken by said user client, of developing
said system by combining files describing said plurality of said
functional units;

a fourth step, to be taken by said user client, of
transmitting question information about said functional units or
keyword information regarding information required for
development of said system to said server, when said system does
not operate properly due to malfunctions of said functional units
or when said information required for development of said system
is to be acquired; and

a fifth step, to be taken by said user client, of obtaining,

28 when necessary, a file of another functional units, based on reply

29 information to said question information or on said information

30 retrieved according to said keyword information and, if necessary,

31 of changing design to have another try of developing said system

32 and checking operations of a developed system.

1   2.   The system development method according to Claim 1,

2   wherein, in said second step, said files of said plurality of said

3   functional units are allowed to be obtained only when an

4   application for individual or collective acquisition of said

5   files is made and a right to acquire said files is granted through

6   examination of the application for acquisition of each of said

7   functional units or of every collective group of said functional

8   units.

1   3.   The system development method according to Claim 1,

2   wherein, in said fourth step, when any question about said

3   functional units that has been already asked is contained in said

4   question information, a notification informing that said question

5   about said functional units has been already asked is provided,

6   and other information required for development of said system is

7   able to be obtained.

1   4.   The system development method according to Claim 1,

2   wherein said reply information to said question information is

3   transmitted to each of both said user clients and said developer

4   clients which is operated by a user having already acquired said

5   files including a user having transmitted said question

6   information, a user having wanted to obtain said files but having

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7   not yet obtained said files and, when there is a model functional

8   unit that has been used as a model for development of said

9   functional unit, a user having developed said model functional

10 unit.

1   5.   The system development method according to Claim 1,

2   further comprising a sixth step of transmitting, when said

3   developer of said functional units has found a malfunction of said

4   functional units, contact information notifying that said

5   functional units have said malfunction and information about a

6   method for taking a measure against said malfunction.

1   6.   The system development method according to Claim 1,

2   wherein said system is a semiconductor device and said functional

3   unit is a basic logic element or a basic logic circuit constructed

4   by combining a plurality of said basic logic elements.

1   7.   The system development method according to Claim 1,

2   wherein said system is a semiconductor device and said functional

3   units include a central processing unit, storage device, buffer,

4   and peripheral device and wherein a file of said peripheral device

5   is so constructed as to be able to select either of a file to

6   implement its function by using hardware or a file to implement

7   its function by using software.

1   8.   The system development method according to Claim 1,

2   wherein said system is software and said functional units are

3   routines or objects to perform predetermined processing.

1   9.   A storage medium storing system development program

2   for causing a computer to execute a method for developing a system

3   using a development-support system made up of a server used to

4   provide information about functional units each implementing a

5   different function and files describing said different functions,

6   at least one developer client to develop said functional units

7   and at least one user client to develop said system configured

8   to perform desired operations by combining said functional units,

9   wherein all of said server, developer client, and user client are

10   connected through an internet, comprising:

11   a first step, to be taken by said user client, of registering

12   an operator of said user client as a user of said

13   development-support system ;

14   a second step, to be taken by said user client, of obtaining,

15   by referring to information about said functional units, files

16   describing a plurality of said functional units which are needed

17   for development of said system;

18   a third step, to be taken by said user client, of developing

19   said system by combining files describing said plurality of said

20   functional units;

21   a fourth step, to be taken by said user client, of

22   transmitting question information about said functional units or

23   keyword information regarding information required for

24   development of said system to said server, when said system does

25   not operate properly due to malfunctions of said functional units

26   or when said information required for development of said system

27   is to be acquired; and

28   a fifth step, to be taken by said user client, of obtaining,

29   when necessary, a file of another functional units, based on reply

30 information to said question information or on said information

31 retrieved according to said keyword information and, if necessary,

32 of changing design to have another try of developing said system

33 and checking operations of a developed system.

1   10.   A development-support system comprising:

2   a server used to provide information about functional units

3   each implementing a different function and files describing said

4   different function,

5   at least one developer client to develop said functional

6   units:

7   at least one user client to develop a system configured to

8   perform desired operations by combining said functional units;

9   and

10   wherein all of said server, said developer client, and said

11 user client are connected through an internet,

12   wherein said user client obtains files of a plurality of

13 said functional units, develops said system by combining files

14 of said plurality of functional units and checks operations of

15 the developed system and, as a result, when said developed system

16 does not operate properly due to a malfunction of any one of said

17 functional units, transmits question information about said

18 malfunction of said functional unit to said server,

19   wherein said server, after having accepted and registered

20 said question information, transmits said question information

21 to said developer client operated by said developer client of said

22 functional units,

23   wherein said developer client transmits reply information

24 to said question information to said server,

25   wherein said server, after having accepted and registered

26   said reply information, transmits said reply information to said

27   user client or another developer client operated by a user having

28   interests in said functional units.

1   11.   The development-support system according to Claim 10,

2   wherein said user client makes an application for acquisition of

3   each of a plurality of functional units or of said plurality of

4   functional units collectively, said server examines said

5   application for each of said plurality of functional units or for

6   said plurality of functional units collectively and grants said

7   user client a right to acquire, and said user client, based on

8   the granted right, obtains files of said functional unit from said

9   server.

1   12.   The development-support system according to Claim 10,

2   wherein said server, only when said question information has been

3   registered as coming from a user of said development-support

4   system and said question information has been transmitted from

5   a user having obtained files of said functional units, accepts

6   said question information.

1   13.   The development-support system according to Claim 10,

2   wherein said server, when having already accepted and registered

3   said question information about said functional units, registers

4   said question information together with question information that

5   has been already registered and transmits contents of said

6   registration to said developer client.

1   14.   The development-support system according to Claim 10,

2   wherein said server transmits a date when a reply to said question

3   information should be made to said developer client and, if there

4   is no reply by said date, transmits information urging said

5   developer client to make a reply and, if there is still no reply

6   even after said date, again transmits information urging said

7   developer client to make a reply on every predetermined date, to

8   said developer client.

1   15.   The development-support system according to Claim 14,

2   wherein said server transmits information notifying that a

3   predetermined penalty is imposed every time said reply is delayed

4   by said one date behind said date or by said predetermined dates

5   behind said date, together with said information urging said

6   developer client to make said reply, and an amount equivalent to

7   said penalty is automatically drawn from a bank account every time

8   said reply is delayed by one date behind said date or by

9   predetermined dates behind said date.

1   16.   The development-support system according to Claim 10,

2   wherein said server accepts said reply information only when said

3   reply information has been transmitted by a user who has been

4   registered as a user of said development-support system and who

5   has developed said functional unit.

1   17.   The development-support system according to Claim 10,

2   wherein said interested user is a user having obtained said files

3   including a user having transmitted said question information,

4   a user having wanted to obtain said files but having not yet

5 obtained said files or, when there is a model functional unit that

6 has been used as a model for development of said functional unit,

7 a user having developed said model functional unit.

1   18.   The development-support system according to Claim 10,

2 wherein said developer client transmits, when said developer of

3 said functional unit has found a malfunction of said functional

4 unit, contact information notifying that said functional unit has

5 said malfunction and information about a method for taking a

6 measure against said malfunction, to said server.

1   19.   The development-support system according to Claim 10,

2 wherein said system is a semiconductor device and said functional

3 unit is a basic logic element or a basic logic circuit constructed

4 by combining a plurality of said basic logic elements.

1   20.   The development-support system according to Claim 10,

2 wherein said system is a semiconductor device and said functional

3 unit is a central processing unit, storage device, buffer, and

4 peripheral device and wherein a file of said peripheral device

5 is so constructed as to be able to select either of a file to

6 implement its function by using hardware or a file to implement

7 its function by using software.

1   21.   The development-support system according to Claim 10,

2 wherein said system is software and said functional units are

3 routines or objects to perform predetermined processing.

1   22.   A storage medium storing system development control

2   program for causing a computer to execute functions of a

3   development-support system comprising:

4   a server used to provide information about functional units

5   each implementing a different function and files describing said

6   different function,

7   at least one developer client to develop said functional

8   units:

9   at least one user client to develop a system configured to

10   perform desired operations by combining said functional units;

11   and

12   wherein all of said server, said developer client, and said

13   user client are connected through an internet,

14   wherein said user client obtains files of a plurality of

15   said functional units, develops said system by combining files

16   of said plurality of functional units and checks operations of

17   the developed system and, as a result, when said developed system

18   does not operate properly due to a malfunction of any one of said

19   functional units, transmits question information about said

20   malfunction of said functional unit to said server,

21   wherein said server, after having accepted and registered

22   said question information, transmits said question information

23   to said developer client operated by said developer client of said

24   functional units,

25   wherein said developer client transmits reply information

26   to said question information to said server,

27   wherein said server, after having accepted and registered

28   said reply information, transmits said reply information to said

29   user client or another developer client operated by a user having

30   interests in said functional units.